Operation and Maintenances

The Committee has suggested 30 per cent availability factor and 58 per cent plant load factor to be achieved in all thermal stations progressively. Emphasis on training of personnel, proper industrial relations and creation of adequate spares, have been mentioned. An effective management information system should be created in the monitoring of the power stations.

Financial Management and Tariffs:

The Committee recommended that the rates of return for SEBs be fixed at 15 per cent (including interest 071 Government loans) which should help in generating adequate resources for the power programme. Interest on the works on progress should be debited to revenue account and not capitalised as at present. The Committee has made extensive recommendations on the principles of tariff wherein they have suggested that the tariff should not be fixed below the cost. ' Any subsidy for any class of consumer should come only in the form of subsidy from the State Government after the same has been voted in the State Legislature. Inverted block tariffs for domestic and commercial consumers and peak hour tariffs have been suggested. They have suggested that agriculturists and rural consumers as a class do not need subsidy and subsidy should be confined to the small/marginal farmers. Flat rate for tariff for agriculture should be discontinued. The norms for efficient performance of the Boards should be fixed by a newly created Bureau of Electricity Cost &nd Prices.

Rural Electrification:

IOO per cent rural electrification should be brought about by 1994-95. Street lighting dues should be paid to the State Electricity Boards directly by the State Government so that the rural areas get this essential facility. Schemes for giving loans to the rural people for wiring their houses have been suggested.

Organisation and Management;

The Committee has made extensive recommendations for restructuring power supply industry. Statutory Regional Electricity Authorities are to be constituted in each region to own and operate the national transmission lines and Load Despatch Centres and to control the inter-State exchanges of power and facilitate the smooth flow of power from Central Stations to all constituent States. Regional Electricity Generation Corporations are to take oyer the generation activity in the central sector from NTPC, NHPC and DVC. Modifications in the composition of the State Electricity Boards and proper procedures for selection of the Chairmen/Members of the State Electricity Boards and CEA have been indicated.

Research, and *Development;*

The Committee has suggested substantial increase in the allocation for research and development activity *in* the power sector.

Supply of Cooking Gas Cylinders in Deihi

1384. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to Btate:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cooking gas outlets in Delhi do not store overnight filled Sas cylinders in the outlet premises;

(b) whether the filled' cylinders reach the retail outlets from the godowns after 11.30 A.M. on all working days;

(c) whether it is a fact that distribution of cooking gas cylinders by retail outlets is carried out only between 12 noon and 5.30 P.M. with one hour lunch break between 1.30 and 2.30 P.M barring holidays; and

(d) whether Government propose to enhance the hours of supply of gas cylinders to consumers in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) Since the Gas Cylinder Rules, 1981 prohibit storage of LPG in excess of IOO Kg. (7 cylinders) in any place, distributors can store only 7 cylinders within showroom premises over-night. Cylinders are stored by the distributors in the godowns approved by the Chief Controller of Explosives from where refills are sent to customers against refill orders.

(b) Generally speaking filled cylinders are supplied to the distributors from 9 A.M. onwards. There may he some delay on certain occasions due to operational problems.

(c) LPG distributors operate between 9 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. with a lunch break of one hour between 1.30 to 2.30 P.M.

(d) No, Sir.

Gases available at Urban Refinery of ONGC

1385. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what types of gases are readily available at Uran Refinery of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) what steps ONGC has taken to utilize these gases for fruitful purposes; and

(c) whether it is a. fact that the gas from Uran will be taken to Gujarat by pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) There is no refinery at Uran Terminal of ONGC. However, associated gas from Bombay High is being transported to Uran Terminal where an LPQ extraction plant is in operation.

(b) After extracting LPG at Uran from the associated gas produced from Bombay High the resultant lean gas is supplied to various consumers like Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Trombay, Thai, Maharashtra Electricity Board etc.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

Hydro-Electric Projects in Maharashtra

' 1386. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of Hydro-electric projects at present in existance in Maharashtra;

(b) what is the power generation capacity of these projects;

(c) whether some Hydro-projects are under construction in Maharashtra; and

(d) how many Hydro-projects are proposed to be taken in hand during the Seventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) There are at present 9 hydro-electric power stations under operation in Maharashtra with a total installed capacity of over 1317 MW.

(c) There are eight hydro-electric projects under construction in Maharashtra, in addition to the Pench hydro project in which Maharashtra has a one-third share.

(d) The Seventh Five-Year Plan ' has not yet been finalised.